

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US FR

SUBJECT: LE MONDE ARTICLE CLAIMS GOF SHOWS INCREASING
DESIRE FOR CONCILIATION WITH UNITED STATES

1. JANUARY 11 ISSUE OF LE MONDE HAS FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE
BY MAURICE DELARUE HEADLINED "FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS
DEMONSTRATING MORE AND MORE ITS DESIRE FOR CONCILIATION
WITH THE UNITED STATES." SINCE ARTICLE REPRESENTS GROW-
ING OPINION WITHIN VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS, HIGHLIGHTS
ARE TRANSMITTED BELOW:

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BEGIN HIGHLIGHTS:

THE DESIRE OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TO AVOID ALL FRICTION WITH THE UNITED STATES IS INCREASINGLY EVIDENT.

COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND NATO, MENTIONED IN THE MARTINIQUE COMMUNIQUE AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN EUROPEAN SECURITY, IS OPENLY PRACTICED. THE RECENT NOMINATION OF GENERAL CHESNAIS, A SHAPE OLDTIMER, AS CHIEF OF THE FRENCH MISSION TO NATO, IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS REGARD.

IN THIS SAME SPIRIT, WE CAN CHARACTERIZE AS A NEW CONCESSION TO DR. KISSINGER FRENCH ABANDONMENT OF THE "TRILATERAL FORMULA" SUGGESTED BY GISCARD IN HIS OCTOBER PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM CONFERENCE. THE MARTINIQUE COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED GISCARD'S OCTOBER PROPOSAL BUT REDUCED IT TO A CONFERENCE OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF OIL. IT SEEMS, THEN, THAT THE TRILATERAL FORMULA HAS BEEN ABANDONED. THIS REFLECTS OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION OF POOR NON-OIL PRODUCERS ON PART OF BOTH DR. KISSINGER AND THE ARABS.

THE SURPRISING ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIAL FRENCH REACTION TO DR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS REFUSING TO EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE NEAR EAST IN CASE OF EXTREME URGENCY, AND CRITICIZING THE EUROPEANS, IS ALSO CHARACTERISTIC OF GISCARD D'ESTAING'S DIPLOMACY. DESPITE INTENSE QUESTIONING BY COMMUNISTS ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THURSDAY, FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECLARATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO OTHER QUESTIONS, HOWEVER, MR. SAUVAGNARGUES MADE IT CLEAR THAT FRENCH POLICY IS DESIGNED TO DIMINISH TENSIONS, WHICH IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF MILITARY INTERVENTION. BEFORE THAT, ON JANUARY 8, PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC CHARACTERIZED GEORGE MARCHAIS' CRITICISM OF GOF SILENCE AS "RIDICULOUS."

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AS FAR AS DR. KISSINGER'S CRITICISM OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS (SIC) IS CONCERNED, MR. SAUVAGNARGUES LET IT BE KNOWN THAT AMBASSADOR RUSH TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO COME AND TELL HIM THAT THE REMARKS WERE APPLICABLE ONLY TO THE PAST.

END HIGHLIGHTS

RUSH

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